FBI WASH DC

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JAN 30 1969
TELETYPE

Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI ATLANTA

3:48 PM URGENT 1/30/69 SAT

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861 AND MEMPHIS

FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TEL TO ATLANTA JAN. TWENTYNINE, SIXTYNINE.

APPOINTMENT WAS MADE THIS DATE FOR INTERVIEW WITH REV. RALPH ABERNATHY. WHEN SA'S [redacted] AND [redacted] ARRIVED AT SCLC HEADQUARTERS, ABERNATHY'S SECRETARY ADVISED HE WAS NOT IN BUT SHE WOULD CONTACT HIM ON THE TELEPHONE. SA [redacted] TELEPHONICALLY TALKED WITH ALBERNATHY WHO APOLOGIZED FOR BEING UNABLE TO KEEP THE APPOINTMENT AND SAID HE WAS "VISITING THE SICK".

ABERNATHY ADVISED CONCERNING HIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS THAT A CONSPIRACY EXISTS IN THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., THAT WHAT HE ACTUALLY STATED WAS IN VIEW OF THE ASSASSINATIONS OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, ROBERT F. KENNEDY, MEDGAR EVERS, AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., THERE WOULD BE AN INDICATION TO HIM

END PAGE ONE

5527

REC 82

59 FEB 10 1969

97

THAT THERE MAY BE A CONSPIRACY AMONG THE "FORCES OF EVIL" TO DO AWAY WITH ANY YOUNG "MILITANT" WHO STANDS FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. ABERNATHY STATED HE HAS NO EVIDENCE NOR HAS HE HEARD FROM ANY SOURCE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION THAT A CONSPIRACY EXISTS IN THIS MATTER. HE ADVISED THAT THE STATEMENT MADE TO THE PRESS CONCERNING A CONSPIRACY CONCERNED THE ASSASSINATIONS OF ALL THE ABOVE MEN.

ABERNATHY ADVISED THAT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, REV. JAMES LAWSON, MINISTER OF CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH, MEMPHIS, TOLD HIM IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DAY PRIOR TO THE ASSASSINATION OF KING, TWO NEGRO FIREMEN WHO WORKED IN THE FIRE STATION ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE MOTEL WHERE KING WAS KILLED WERE MOVED, LEAVING SOME UNMANNED FIRE EQUIPMENT. ACCORDING TO LAWSON, THE TWO NEGRO FIREMEN WERE MOVED TO FIRE STATIONS WHICH WERE ALREADY FULLY MANNED AND EQUIPPED. ALSO ACCORDING TO LAWSON, A NEGRO POLICEMAN WHO WORKED THE BEAT WHICH INCLUDED THE MOTEL WHERE KING WAS KILLED WAS MOVED OFF OF THAT BEAT THE DAY KING WAS KILLED.

END PAGE TWO

THAT INFORMATION ALONG WITH WHAT HE HAS HEARD AND READ CONCERNING UNIDENTIFIED RADIO CALLS WHICH DIVERTED A SEARCH FOR A WHITE MUSTANG LEADS HIM TO BELIEVE THAT THERE MAY BE A CONSPIRACY IN THIS MATTER.

MEMPHIS CONTACT REV. JAMES LAWSON CONCERNING THE ABOVE MATTER IF NOT ALREADY DONE AND CONDUCT ALL NECESSARY INVESTIGATION TO RESOLVE THE MATTER.

END

P

ERT

FBI WASH DC

TU@